

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

We read with interest in the January "Labour Woman" that the Lowestoft Women's Federation have been dealing with plans for canvassing and working listed villages in their Division. A conference was also arranged with representatives of the Agricultural Workers' Union to discuss visits to women in the villages. Congratulations to the Lowestoft women. The working of villages by the women's organisations has been done before in some places with good results, and the suggested conference with the representatives of the Union is an excellent idea. There is room for much more co-operation of this sort. We hope that much good attended these efforts.

A successful conference of Labour County Councillors and representatives of county federations was held at Transport House on January 28th under the auspices of the Labour Party Research Department. The following counties were represented: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Denbighshire, Derbyshire, Durham, Essex, Glamorgan, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Sussex, West Riding. We note that among the decisions reached, the conference agreed on the desirability of setting up some form of Labour County Council organisation to facilitate interchange of views and information. The conference also expressed the view that it was desirable that the Local Government work of Party Headquarters should be extended, especially in connection with the collection and distribution of information. In the meantime, election literature prepared for the forthcoming County Council elections in Durham, Glamorgan, Monmouth and the West Riding is to be circulated to all counties, together with the list of the Research Department's County Council correspondents. The latter step will of course facilitate enquiries from one County Council group to another. We understand that the Research Department will be glad

to receive communications from counties not represented at the conference, together with the fullest information as to their activities.

In view of the number and importance of big outdoor demonstrations, galas, fetes, etc., which are now run under Labour auspices in as many parts of the country, it is surprising that more enquiries have not been received concerning the possibilities of insurance for loss attributable to weather conditions. We have recently been making some enquiries in this matter for the benefit of our readers. A few insurance companies transact business of this kind as a regular thing, and this business if, of course, also done by the members of Lloyds. If any of our readers desire to make a *bona fide*

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enquiry we should be pleased to put them in touch with a member of Lloyds who would handle this business for them or to place them in touch with a suitable insurance company. We, however, do not wish to encourage mere idle or curious enquiries, and we hope readers will not send to us unless they have definitely in view the insurance of an important function. It would seem that a number of alternative policies are available. Thus compensation may be provided for each day (of a specified number of hours) during which the rainfall exceeds a stipulated measurement, and there are variations in which this principle of insurance acts. Alternatively insurance is obtainable for loss of expenses in the event of outdoor functions being abandoned, or in the event of there being a diminution of receipts in consequence of stipulated adverse

weather conditions. Where the latter class of insurance is contemplated, information is of course necessary as to the gross receipts expected from various sources, such as gate, sale of refreshments, programmes, side-shows, etc., and a statement is required as to receipts from these sources in past events before the premium can be quoted. We are of the opinion that the payment of an insurance premium would be a wise and prudent proceeding where Labour Parties are risking either a serious sum of money in promoting an outdoor event, or where they look to such source for any great proportion of their annual income.

The Labour Party Weekly Notes for Speakers are invariably a useful brew for platform or press propaganda. The issue for February 6th is devoted to "What a return to Tory Government would mean to the workers." This is the right note and we hope speakers will take it up. We are rather tired of speakers' apologies and explanations. The real thing that matters is what would the other side do, and why is their majority used to prevent our side carrying out its own policies. Have we not too readily accepted the position that because we have a Labour Government it will be our Party who will be on trial or on the defensive at the next election. This won't do. We shall be fools to lose all the advantage of attack if we accept this position. The defendants in the dock should be they who possess the power in both Houses of Parliament. We certainly ought not to let the enemy gain ground in his designs on the workers' welfare behind a smoke screen to which we contribute if we waste our power on defence rather than attack. A jolly good onslaught on Tory intentions and pretensions is long overdue in most constituencies where explanations have too long filled the bill.

It is of course absurd to expect from voluntary secretaries the same degree of promptitude in replying to correspondence as one expects from paid agents, though it is a curious fact that our own experience shows that some unpaid organisers are actually better correspondents than certain paid ones. But there is a class of secretary to whom we wish to address a word, and who cause endless dislocation because of their lack of attention to correspondence.

Some Secretaries apparently never answer the simplest query without holding over the letter until it has been presented to their Party meeting. Such action is of course childish. Frequently we wish that certain local officers had learnt to accept, if only a trifling degree of responsibility. Circumstances arise where a speaker is offered to a Division or a change is necessary in suggested arrangements, but the whole matter is held up simply because the local Secretary has not the pluck to make a decision or the initiative to consult his officers in order to reply immediately. Where it is essential that correspondence should be presented to a meeting prior to a decision being taken, it is at least courteous to acknowledge letters and state when a reply may be expected. Then there is the Secretary who never dates his letters, and others who give a different address on every letter, without explanation, or who give an abbreviated local address to accept which, without turning up one's records, would involve postal delay. Another complaint is that Secretaries change—particularly about this time of the year—and neither the new or the old Secretary feel it necessary to acquaint anybody that a change has taken place. We have an illustration this week. The Secretary of a certain Party has been written to some six times within the last five months. There is now to hand a letter from an altogether different person informing us that *he* is shortly giving up office. Dozens of instances have also come under our notice where Secretaries fail to notify speakers of the place or time or a meeting. They will of course complain pretty loudly if the speaker does not turn up. All of which goes to show that better business methods are necessary in a good many of our Local Parties, and in respect to correspondence in particular.

What is a

LABOUR LIMB ?

SOLD OUT : Will Secretaries who have copies of our January issue to spare please send same to the Editor immediately ? Allowance made.

ELECTORAL REFORM

The Government's Bill

We reproduce in another part of this issue the text of the Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill now before Parliament. If this Bill reaches the statute book in anything like the form in which it is presented, it is not too much to say that a minor revolution in the present methods of election will have taken place. It is at present a moot point whether some further minor addition will or will not be introduced into the Bill during its passage through Parliament, though we fear that the probabilities are that few further reforms of any importance are likely to be tacked on to the Bill.

Whatever may be said of the usefulness of the present Bill and its probable effect on the fortunes of the Party, it of course falls far short of fulfilling the ambitious programme of electoral reform presented in several issues of the "Labour Organiser" last year and summarised in our May issue. In one particular there is of course a direct conflict. And one effect of the Bill will actually be to make even more urgent the codification of electoral law which we have urged to be necessary. We understand that limitations of time and of opportunity definitely prevent at the present time an embarkation upon the very much wider field of electoral reform with which we have dealt in these pages, and in which the National Association of Labour Registration and Election Agents is deeply concerned.

Our readers will be interested to learn that representatives of the Association recently met members of the Labour Party Executive, including members of the Government, to press upon them the reforms that have been outlined in the "Labour Organiser." We are happy to say that in all but a few minor particulars agreement was reached upon both the advisability and suitability of the changes advocated, and representations have in fact been made to the Government on many points. We must, however, content ourselves for the present with what is possible of accomplishment by a Minority Government, or what is possible of accomplishment in any case in a Parliament overcrowded with other pressing legislation. We are hopeful that in the lifetime of the present Government there may yet be opportunity for a further Bill dealing at any rate with corrupt practices, and certain Ballot Act

changes. But the whole field of election law requires revision and a comprehensive overhaul, and if a settled Government results as the outcome of the next General Election, we earnestly trust that one of its earliest endeavours will be to place upon the statute book an Act modernising and simplifying the present legislation and embodying the major part of the requirements which we have advocated.

GROW MORE LIMBS

BRISTOL EAST BY-ELECTION

The result of the Bristol East by-election was probably the best vindication of the policy of preparedness which any Local Labour Party has afforded in recent years. We have really been surprised how many Divisional Labour Parties have drifted into a state of unpreparedness since the last General Election notwithstanding the insecure tenure by which the present Government holds office. Bristol East had taken no such chances and every one who had an opportunity of observing the organisation at close quarters speaks highly of the readiness of the Party when the trial of strength came—and this readiness was to be discovered both in the indoor and outdoor organisation. The agent, Mr. H. E. Rogers, is to be heartily congratulated on the state of affairs which resulted in not only a handsome victory, but a complete triumph for the Government in an election admittedly fought upon its record and policy.

A batch of election literature is now to hand and the collection before us shows that the literature department had a punch in it, and in no respect did it, it seems, come short of fulfilling all the requirements of a thoroughly up-to-date and vigorous campaign.

We note that the "Labour Organiser" Workers' Census Card (which appeared in No. 1 issue of the "Labour Organiser") was used in this election. We reproduce the Bristol adaptation of it below. There was also a special card for the women's lightning mass canvass, this taking the form of a card for a list of promises to be jotted down at any odd time or in the course

of a mass canvass, to supplement the door-to-door visitations. The election address was the now somewhat orthodox quarto fly production, but the address departed from the too stodgy productions that are so common, by being well paragraphed, headed and displayed, and what is more, well illustrated with actual photographs showing relief work, new workers' houses, widows drawing pensions, etc. There was a special manuscript letter from Lady Cripps and a typewritten facsimile of the message from the Prime Minister. There appears to have been an abundance of other literature, and the handbills were well drafted and displayed. The "East Bristol Elector" was the name of the now indispensable election news-sheet. This was illustrated and full of pep.

WORK WILL WIN!

What I will do.

Name

Address

Distribute Literature from house to house

Assist in Canvassing

Bring Voters to the Poll

Take Numbers of Voters on Polling Day

Assist in taking charge of a Committee Room

Act as Messenger

Assist in anything to win the seat for Labour

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FINANCE AND THE SLUMP.

What the Worker Ought to Know.

The present slump has brought home to great masses of people the important part played by finance. To many, however, finance is still "wropt in mystery." They note how one expert in discussing the burning question of unemployment talks learnedly of the alleged gold famine, another of inflation, another of credit policy and so on, so that there appear to be nearly as many explanations of the present slump as there are experts.

In these circumstances nothing could be more timely than the publication of the new "Plebs Outline of Finance," by A. Woodburn (cloth, hard boards, 2/6, 2/8 post free from the N.C.L.C., 15, South Hill Park Gardens, Hampstead, London, N.W.3.).

"An Outline of Finance" is simply written and gets down to fundamentals. It deals in plain language with the gold standard, banking, costing, trustification, the creation of credit, the financing of a company, the Stock Exchange, inflation, balance sheets, local government, finance and national finance. It tells the average worker what the average worker ought to know and what he or she will be interested in knowing.

It is the first British book on finance written from the workers' point of view and it is a noteworthy successor to the previous "Plebs Outlines." There is a library edition at 3/6 (3/8 post free).

LABOUR LIMBS

for POWER

(Concluded from page 28)

than one ward is limited to an ordinary election or any first election of additional borough Councillors.

3. A Parliamentary or County Council polling district, if it is wholly within the ward and is a registration unit for the purposes of the registration of electors, will be a polling district for the election of Borough Councillors.
4. Certain forms are altered and the number of Counting Agents is increased.

MINUTES AND MINUTE-TAKING—(concluded.)

We will proceed with the agenda at the place where we left off last month. The next item to be minuted is :

REPORTS FROM LOCAL LABOUR PARTIES AND LOCAL DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

A number of reports from Local Labour Parties of their activities during the past quarter were next presented. The Filbook Local Labour Party reported through their Secretary, Mr. A. Penn, that during the quarter three indoor propaganda meetings had been held, and that twenty-four new members had been admitted. Considerable success had also attended their efforts with social functions. A national speaker had been promised them for 10th January and the Local Party desired to run this meeting in conjunction with the Divisional Labour Party. The Secretary was instructed to bring this matter forward on his report.

The Stillton Local Labour Party reported through their Secretary, Mr. A. Snagg that considerable apathy existed among their members and only one meeting had been held during the quarter, and this was poorly attended. There were no new members and the finances were in a bad way. There was very little, the Secretary said, else to report.

And so on with a summary of each report. It will be noted that the reports of Local Labour Parties are not in quite the same category as the report of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee's report must be approved for the Divisional Labour Party controls its own Executive, but the reports of the Local Labour Parties will be received. They are not under the control of the meeting in the same sense as the Executive, and the reports should be considerably condensed otherwise the minutes would be too long.

Mr. E. Helps moved, and Mrs. Good seconded, that the report of the Filbook Local Labour Party be received. This was carried unanimously. Mr. A. Snagg then enquired if that carried the approval to share the expenses of the meeting at which a national speaker would speak, as it had been previously held that when minutes of the Executive meeting were passed this involved an endorsement of what they had done. The Chairman ruled that while it was quite correct that approval given to Executive minutes carried an endorse-

ment of any recommendation contained therein, unless separately dealt with the resolution just passed receiving the minutes of the Filbook Labour Party, did not carry approval of the proposal made, and that would come on a separate resolution.

Mr. E. Helps then moved, and Mrs. M. E. Too then seconded, that the proposal of the Filbook Labour Party be accepted, and that the arrangements for the proposed meeting be referred to the Executive with an instruction to enter into a fifty-fifty arrangement as to expenses and profits. This was carried with one dissident.

Mr. A. Hitch moved, and Miss A. Slip seconded, that the report of the Stillton Labour Party be not accepted. The Chairman ruled that he could not accept a motion of this character, and that the meeting was bound to accept the report. It was, however, open to the meeting to offer suggestions to improve the working of the Stillton Party, and he would presently accept a resolution on those lines. Mrs. Good moved, and Mr. E. Grips seconded, that the report be accepted. Carried unanimously.

Mr. I. S. Avie, moved, and Mr. G. O. Head seconded, that the Executive Committee be requested to find ways and means of helping the Stillton L.L.P. and report to next meeting. Carried unanimously.

THE "LABOUR ORGANISER."

Mr. A. Wiseman moved, and Mr. A. Luckiman seconded, that this Party purchase twenty-four copies per month of the "Labour Organiser" to be charged to general funds and supplied to the members of the Executive Committee. A discussion took place on the value of the "Labour Organiser" to the Movement, and the resolution was carried nem con.

It will be noted that the meeting has now disposed of all its reports and notices of motion. What follows next is correspondence, i.e., business which is introduced from outside, and once

Who are the

**YOUNG
LABOUR
LIMBS ?**

again we would urge that it is not proper for this business to be taken at the commencement of the meeting so giving the best place on the agenda to what is after all very often altogether new business.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter was read from the National Labour Party offering the services of a propagandist in the week commencing December 15th. This letter had been

LOCAL LABOUR LIMBS

How many can you grow ?

considered by the Executive and referred to the General meeting for fuller consideration. Mr. W. E. Urge moved, and Mrs. Good seconded, that the offer be accepted, and that we proceed to discuss arrangements immediately. After a brief discussion this resolution was put and carried unanimously.

The Chairman stated that he would allow a general discussion as to how the services of a propagandist might be best utilised. A number of suggestions were forthcoming, and the following programme was finally tentatively agreed upon, the Secretary and Executive being left to complete the details: (details to be given in minutes).

It will be noted that we are here minuting a piece of bad business management. The Executive has referred to the General Meeting without any recommendation an item of business requiring detailed arrangement, and in doing so they have held up a reply to an offer which may or may not have been withdrawn ere the reply was received. The Executive should have been prepared with a recommendation and at least a skeleton programme. We have not attempted to minute what would have undoubtedly been a long and unbusinesslike discussion. There is something to be said for getting general approval and enthusiasm in a venture of this kind, but it is a mistake nevertheless to go to a general meeting on such a proposal with no plans and no concrete suggestions.

A letter was read from the Clerk to the County Council acknowledging representations re insufficient polling districts in the Mudborough area. The letter stated that the matter was receiv-

ing the attention of the County Council, and a further reply would be received in due course.

Mr. I. S. Arve moved, and Miss Quick seconded, that the letter lie on the table. This was carried.

Note again that every letter read to a meeting should have mention in the minutes, with a note of its contents. In this case a resolution was passed which is very often taken as a resolution finally disposing of an item of correspondence. But that is not so. If a letter is ordered to lie on the table it is open to a mover at any subsequent meeting to refer to same and to ask for a further consideration of its contents. Here the motion carried was quite correct, and if it is desired that a letter should be finally disposed of the resolution should specify the action, though of course it may be moved "that the letter be received and its contents noted"—which is tantamount to no action, but it ensures that the minute-taker does really do as we are advising him to do, i.e., embody all correspondence in the minutes.

The Chairman at this stage suggested that in view of the lateness of the hour and that the Labour Member was waiting to address the meeting further business should be referred to the Executive, this including the date of the next meeting. This proposal was carried nem. con.

SPEECH BY MR. L. ABOUR, M.P.

Mr. L. Abour, who was loudly cheered next addressed the meeting. At the conclusion of his speech he was warmly thanked by the Chairman. The meeting terminated at 8.15 p.m.

The minutes we have given contain no summary of the Member's speech.

**BE A LIMB
NOT A LAMB**

Join the LABOUR PARTY

For that discourtesy we plead considerations of space, but this should not be a sufficient excuse in actual minuting. The salient points should certainly find their way to the minutes, and particularly any suggestions affecting the organisation, future working, or the relationship of the candidate with the constituency. Not only does courtesy demand this, but sound business practice.

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The "L.O." Guide to Local Government Elections

NEW ELECTION ORDERS FOR RURAL, URBAN, METROPOLITAN BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

We had intended devoting our article this month wholly to Parish Council elections. The issue, however, within the last few days of a series of fresh Statutory Rules and Orders governing the whole of the above elections forces a choice upon us of either dealing with these rules or using our space for the one class of election only. We feel that we shall be considering the interests of the greater number of our readers by departing from our original intention. The fact that we are unable to find space for dealing in a detailed manner with the Parish Council elections may in part be compensated for by our willingness to reply through the post on this occasion to any enquiry that may reach us concerning these elections.

The Parish Councillors Election Rules, 1931.

Statutory Rules 1931 No. 24 is the official designation of the new Rules which run to thirty-six pages. We strongly advise readers interested in Parish Council elections to purchase a copy of the rules. They are priced at ninepence, and may be obtained through any bookseller. As a companion to the Rules two circulars have been issued by the Home Office, i.e. (a) circular to Chairmen of Parish Meetings for election of Parish Councillors, and (b) circular to clerks of Parish Councils. Both these circulars are couched in extremely simple language and are considerable aids to the elucidation of important points; they are priced at one penny each.

The circular addressed to chairmen contains an explicit explanation of the proceedings at the Parish election meeting. This information is of course not all available in the Rules themselves as some portion of the procedure is laid down by the Local Government Act, 1894.

Owing to the first Monday in April this year being Easter Monday, the following are the dates which must be adhered to for the election of Parish Councillors:—

1. Parish meeting for the election: Monday 9th March, or such other date not being earlier than the preceding Saturday or the following Wednesday as may be fixed by the County Council. At least seven clear days' notice must be given of the meeting.
2. Withdrawal of candidates after Parish Meeting: Not later than 12 o'clock noon on Tuesday, 17th March.
3. Date of Poll: Monday, 30th March, or such other day not being earlier than the preceding Saturday or the following Wednesday as may be fixed by the County Council. Five clear days notice of the poll must be given.

Readers should note that the annual assembly of the Parish Meeting is not necessarily the Parish Meeting for the election, though the usual practice is to make it so. The annual assembly may be held on some day between 1st March and 1st April, but it must conform to the above table if it is to be utilised as the election meeting.

Rural District Councillors Election Rules, 1931.

Statutory Rules and Orders, 1931, No. 24, is the designation of the new Order which may be obtained for ninepence through any stationer. Published with the Order is a circular to clerks of Rural District Councils obtainable in the same way and priced one penny.

The new Rules are in substitution for the Rural District Councillors Election Order, 1928, as amended by the Local Elections (Alteration of Rules) Order 1925 and the Local Elections (District

Councillors and Guardians Alteration of Rules) Order 1928.

As our readers are aware, in many parts of the country proposals are being made which affect the boundaries of existing authorities. Some of these proposals affect not only the boundaries but the actual existence of certain authorities. Nevertheless, the elections for the present year must go forward except where an Order has actually been made for an alteration of areas to take effect on or before the 1st April, and special provision is contained in such Order with regard to the elections. This matter applies equally regarding other Local Government elections.

As the first Monday in April this year is Easter Monday, the following dates for elections apply:—

1. Notice of election: Friday, 6th March.
2. Receipt of nomination papers: Noon, Thursday, 12th March.
3. Sending notice of decision as to validity of nomination papers: Friday, 13th March.
4. Making out statement as to persons nominated: Saturday, 14th March.
5. Withdrawal of candidates: Noon, Tuesday, 17th March.
6. Notice of poll: Five clear days at least before day of election.
7. Day of election: Monday, 30th March, or such other day not earlier than the previous Saturday or later than the following Wednesday, as may be fixed by the County Council.

The principal changes that are made in the new Order are as follows:—

1. The office of the returning officer is now permitted to be in a contiguous Borough or Urban District.
2. The name of any person furnished with nomination papers by the returning officer for the convenience of electors is to be stated in the notice of election.
3. The somewhat objectionable stipulation that in appointing presiding officers the returning officer should as far as practicable secure the services of suitable persons resident in the parish so as to diminish expense now disappears.
4. As the office of overseer has now disappeared the confusing references to overseers in the previous Orders also disappear.

5. At a casual vacancy the time for sending in nomination papers has been extended to the eighth day instead of the fourth.
6. The nomination paper and other forms have received a slight revision.

The Urban District Councillors Election Rules, 1931.

The official designation of this Order is Statutory Rules and Order, 1931, No. 23 (price ninepence). It is accompanied by a circular to the clerks of Urban District Councils which is sold at one penny. The Order supersedes the Order of 1898 which itself had been twice amended.

The principal alterations are:—

1. A County Council or Parliamentary Polling District if it is wholly within an Urban District or Ward and is a registration unit for the purpose of the register of electors will be a polling district for the election of U.D. Councillors.
2. A modification is made in the provision for polling agents. Each candidate may appoint a polling agent if there are not more than three candidates, but where the number of candidates exceeds three a provision is made allowing each candidate to make nominations and those agents are allowed to serve who receive the highest number of nominations.
3. As with casual vacancies on a Rural Council the latest date for sending in nomination papers is extended to the eighth day after the notice of election.
4. Minor amendments are made in some of the forms.

Metropolitan Borough Councillors Election Rules, 1931.

This Order is published as S.R. & O. 1931, No. 22 (price eightpence). A circular letter has been sent out to Metropolitan Borough Councils respecting these rules but the same has not been placed on sale.

The principal alterations made by the Rule are as follows:—

1. The notice by a nominated candidate of the withdrawal of his candidature must be witnessed.
2. As section 8 (2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1918, allows an elector to vote at elections to fill casual vacancies in all wards in which he is registered, the prohibition of voting in more

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MEMBERSHIP MEMS.

The Birmingham Borough Labour Party recently held a Conference of its twelve Divisions for the purpose of considering the operation and furtherance of the penny per week membership scheme. The present individual membership is approximately six thousand, and an endeavour is to be made to raise the figure to fifty thousand; and this can be done by consistent and united endeavour.

HELLO ————— "L.O."
**LONG LIVE
 THE
 LABOUR LIMBS**

The following interesting figures of the Southampton Labour Party show the development of that Party's income from individual membership during recent years. We congratulate our Southampton friends on the great strides already made, and still being taken. Incidentally, we note that an endeavour is being made to keep a central record of canvassing results in all wards; already a record of over thirty thousand "Fors" and fourteen thousand "Against" has been compiled. The uses of these lists are all too obvious to be mentioned here.

1926	....	....	£30	11	9
1927	....	....	£81	4	4
1928 (a)	....	....	£53	17	5
1929	....	....	£179	16	6
1930	....	....	£239	18	1

(a) In this year the Secretary was ill for three months.

We have made enquiries of a number of Parties as to their practice regarding members' arrears at the end of year. We find that in most cases local officers are permitted discretion, and when members are found to be in difficulties the arrears are altogether wiped out. In Deptford, while arrears are not carried forward in the books, members generally expect to pay them, thus in last year's books a member will be found paying 3/- for 1929 and 5/- for 1930. Contributions are excused if due cause is shown.

There appears to be some difference in practice between various Parties as to

when a member is admitted to full membership rights. Most Parties appear to grant full membership rights on payment of the first month's contribution, though we note that in the case of North Salford a card is actually issued on payment of the first penny, but the member is not eligible for office until he has been a paying member for six months. At Reading cards are issued as a general rule on the first payment of sixpence, though discretionary powers are invested in the ward secretaries.

We understand that the contributions from individual membership in Woolwich reached a total of £711 in 1930; this despite the fact that in April the Royal Arsenal employees were put on short time, and some difficulty resulted. The peak figure for Woolwich in £793 and but for the matter mentioned there is no doubt this would have been beaten last year. Woolwich reports that they do not use the stamp system—"an utter impossibility with five thousand members."

The Becontree Labour Party (Romford Division) which has a large individual membership, notify members who are three months in arrears with an official letter. If no notice is taken the member automatically lapses. The latest figures in our possession for the Romford Division show 1,742 members.

**LIMBS
 WANTED**

Labour Individual Members

Not many Labour Parties appear to be adopting the plan of sticking an adhesive label on the National Labour Party card giving particulars of the local Movement. Why not? There are some Parties which might even experiment with a little printed holder similar to that issued to motorists by insurance companies. The cost per member would be trivial but the convenience would be appreciated by many members, and the holder might be made the medium for giving several items of local information.

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QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

Trades Council Affiliation.

Question. We have a Trades Council in — which we have tried to affiliate to our Divisional Labour Party. It is a fact that the bulk of the delegates are sympathetic to doing this, but we have been met by the position that the Trades Council holds that affiliation would be illegal and they must not put any of their money for a political purpose. I see that in the rules of the Labour Party, Trades Council affiliation is provided for, and I suppose this would not be so if such affiliation were illegal. Can you please explain the position to me so that this matter can be raised again at the next Trades Council meeting?

Answer. The situation which our friend explains is not confined to his town. The delegates of more than one Trades Council have taken what, in our opinion, is a very timorous view of their own rights and privileges. Far too much temerity surrounds the actions of a good many delegates and while we would not counsel the non-observance of the law as it unfortunately stands to-day, we are at the same time convinced that some of our industrial brothers interpret the Acts in an entirely wrong manner, and go far beyond the provisions that are actually laid down.

Trades Councils are not mentioned in either the 1930 Act or in the Trades Disputes and Trades Union Act of 1927. Clause 4 (2) of the latter Act is the one we have to study in connection with our correspondent's question. It is here laid down "that no assets of the Trades Union other than the amount raised by such a separate levy as aforesaid shall be carried to that fund (i.e., the political fund), or directly or indirectly applied or charged in furtherance of any political object to which Section 3 of the Trade Union Act 1913 applies."

The prohibition therefore relates to the use of the funds of Trades Unions only, and not to the funds of Trades Councils—a pretty important difference.

If an affiliation fee to a Trades Council is paid out of the political fund it matters not what political activities the Trades Council engage in, but of course such affiliation fees are almost invariably paid out of industrial funds, and the first question that arises is whether such a payment is in furtherance of any political object.

Now in practically every case Trades Councils function as industrial bodies separately from, or as a separate committee within, the Local Labour Party, and their funds are entirely distinct from political monies.

But the crux of the question is whether an affiliation by the Trades Council to a political Party amounts to applying the funds of the Union to a political object—and they must not be so applied directly or indirectly. We are convinced that no court of law would hold that the mere payment of a fraction of its income by way of an affiliation fee to a political Party would convert the objects of a Trades Council into political objects within the meaning of the Act; and so make affiliation out of industrial funds illegal.

Trades Councils are distinct organisations with entire control over their own funds. Their industrial status is so well established that they are organised in association with the Trades Union Congress. It would be an astounding interpretation of the law to say that Trades Councils may not make a contribution to a political Party as an incidental part of their activities without subordinating all their objects to the political one. Affiliation to a Labour Party does not, we think, make political objects predominant to the extent anticipated by the Section of the Act

quoted. If this were so, then Trades Unions cannot invest their industrial funds in the Co-operative Societies because a certain proportion of the profits goes to political purposes, or in a Labour printing firm for the like reason. No, the objects of a Trades Council do not become political purely because of a local affiliation which is incidental in its character.

On the other hand, we can conceive a Trades Council doing very little of an industrial nature and relying on its Local Party affiliation and status for its principal objects in life. This we think brings the Trades Council objects within those contemplated by the Act and affiliation to such a body out of industrial funds is a very doubtful legality. But this case is the exceptional one, and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred affiliation of the Trades Council to the Local Labour Party, is not only legal, but it should be completed, if only as some demonstration or recognition of rights which still belong to the Unions notwithstanding the repressive Act.

LIMBS

Town Clerk's Illegal Neglect.

Question. I wish to bring to your notice the following action of the Mayor of this town in deciding not to proceed with the election following a "vacancy on the Council following the death of a Councillor." Myself and another elector in the borough sent a written notice to the Town Clerk for the Borough on the 18th December, stating that there was a vacancy. The following day the Town Clerk informed me that the Mayor had decided not to proceed with the election. To-day I interviewed the Mayor and asked him to give this decision in writing. This he would not do. He stated that he had already given his decision to the Town Clerk not to proceed with the election at present. I should be pleased to have your advice upon the matter.

Answer. We have had several postal communications with our correspondent upon this matter, and have advised him to the best of our ability.

A MILLION NEW

LIMBS

THIS YEAR

Why Not?

A "casual vacancy" on a Borough Council may occur from a number of causes, but in respect of certain of these causes the seat does not become vacant until the Council have, by a resolution, declared a vacancy. The latter restriction applies, however, only in cases of bankruptcy or "continuous absence" and in such cases it is the duty of the Council to declare the office to be vacant forthwith. (Section 39 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882).

When a seat has been declared vacant by the Borough Council or it has become vacant owing to death or resignation, Section 66 of the M.C.A., 1882 applies. This section reads, "On a casual vacancy in a corporate office the election shall be held within fourteen days after notice in writing of the vacancy has been given to the Mayor or Town Clerk by two Local Government electors."

Now it is very clear that in the case mentioned an election is being held up in defiance of the law. The Mayor, however, is not the person responsible. The law says the election must take place within fourteen days, but it is the business of the *Town Clerk* to prepare and sign the notice of the election (Section 54).

The question is what remedy is to be found for this defiance of the law. The Home Office has been communicated with and claims to have no jurisdiction in respect to the elections of Borough Councillors, and this is strictly true, though it is unfortunate if no high officer of the State is in a position to tender advice to an erring public body who are setting the law at naught and risking public money in law costs that might compel them to do their duty—not to mention the disenfranchisement of the electors concerned.

There is, however, a remedy provided by the Municipal Corporations Act. Section 225 (2) anticipates an application for a mandamus to proceed to an election of a corporate officer, and it says that the applicant shall give notice in writing of the applica-

tion to the person to be affected thereby at any time not less than ten days before the day in the notice specified for making application. The "person affected" in this case would be the Town Clerk. A number of cases of similar nature have been heard by the Courts, though none so far as we are aware since 1895.

Unfortunately the issue of a writ and the consequent proceedings are costly. In the interim we shall advise every publicity being given to the Council's illegal action, and we hope the possibility will be explored of raising a fund from among the electors in the ward to defray the preliminary legal expenses.

Qualification.

Question. I would be very glad if you could clear up this little difficulty for me. Can a person resident in any part of a county be qualified to become a candidate when not residing in the electoral area for which we wish to nominate him, the person is not a Local Government elector?

Answer. If the person referred to is not a Local Government elector he must either have been resident in the county for twelve months prior to nomination, or be the owner of property in the county (our correspondent's question obviously refers to a County Council Election).

If a person is qualified in any respect within the county he will be qualified as a candidate in any electoral area, and not of necessity only in the electoral areas in which his qualification arises.

Are you a

**LABOUR
LIMB ?**

Copies are to hand of the "Walton Herald," a ten-page quarto magazine, published by the Walton (Liverpool) Labour Party. There is a guaranteed monthly house-to-house distribution of ten thousand copies (minimum). The Editor writes to say that he will be pleased to exchange copies with other journals. Address: The Editor, 12 City Road North, Walton, Liverpool.

ELECTION ENVELOPES



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THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (No. 2) BILL

A BILL TO

Amend the law relating to Parliamentary elections and electors by requiring such elections to be on the principle of the alternative vote and in that connection making provision with respect to the division of two-member constituencies, abolishing University constituencies and the business premises qualification for registration, enabling the holding of the poll to be postponed in those portions of a constituency which are separated from the mainland, regulating the use of vehicles at elections, and reducing the maximum scale of election expenses ; and for other purposes consequential on the matters aforesaid.

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, an election for a member of Parliament shall, if there are more than two candidates, be according to the principle of the alternative vote and shall be conducted in accordance with the rules set out in the First Schedule to this Act.

(2) Subject to the provisions of the said rules, His Majesty may by Order in Council under the Representation of the People Acts make regulations for carrying this section into effect and for adapting, to meet the alteration of law effected by this section, the provisions of the Ballot Act, 1872, and any other Act relating to parliamentary elections, and the provisions of any Act relating to the duties of returning officers.

(3) Nothing contained in this Act shall, except as expressly provided herein, affect the method of voting at parliamentary elections in force at the time of the passing of this Act.

(4) This section shall not apply to the City of London, and where before the passing of this Act a writ has been issued in respect of any election, this section shall not apply to that election.

2.—(1) His Majesty may appoint Commissioners to prepare, as soon as may be after the passing of this Act, schemes for dividing each of the constituencies (other than the City of London and the University constituencies) which, at the time of the passing of this Act, return two members to serve in Parliament, (being the constituencies consisting of the parliamentary boroughs specified in the Second Schedule to this Act), into two constituencies each returning one member.

(2) Any scheme so prepared by the Commissioners shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament and, if both Houses by resolution adopt the scheme, the scheme, with any modifications which may be agreed to by both Houses, shall, as from the dissolution of Parliament next following the adoption of the scheme,

take effect as if it were enacted in this Act, and the new constituencies created by the scheme shall then be substituted in the Ninth Schedule to the Representation of the People Act, 1918 (in this Act referred to as "the principal Act") for the constituency out of which the new constituencies have been created.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in section one of this Act, an election of members to serve in Parliament for any of the said boroughs shall not be according to the principle of the alternative vote in any case until a scheme has taken effect with respect to that borough in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(4) If the register of the parliamentary electors for a new constituency created in pursuance of this section is not so framed as to show the persons entitled to vote at an election for that new constituency, the registration officer shall make such alteration or rearrangement of the register as may be necessary for the purpose of that election.

3. No person shall be entitled to be registered as a parliamentary elector by virtue of a business premises qualification in any register made after the passing of this Act for any constituency other than the City of London, and after the passing of this Act no person shall vote at a general election for more than one constituency.

4.—(1) After the next dissolution of Parliament no members shall be returned to serve in Parliament for University constituencies, and all the provisions of the principal Act and of any other Act which relate to University constituencies or the University franchise shall cease to have effect.

(2) This section shall extend to Northern Ireland and accordingly no member shall, after the next dissolution of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, be returned to serve in that Parliament for the Queen's University of Belfast.

5. Notwithstanding anything contained in section twenty-one of the principal Act, if the conveyance of ballot boxes and ballot papers to a polling place situated in an island for use at a parliamentary election is so delayed by reason of weather as to render impracticable the taking of the poll at that polling place on the day appointed therefore, the returning officer for the constituency which includes the island may direct that the poll shall, as respects that polling place be taken on a subsequent day, being the earliest day which appears to him to be reasonably suitable for the purpose.

6.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, no person shall use any vehicle to which this section applies, or permit any such vehicle to be used, for the purpose of conveying to the poll at a parliamentary election any person other than the owner of the vehicle or a member of his family resident with him.

(2) Any person, being the owner of a vehicle, to which this section applies, who is desirous of using that vehicle for the purpose of conveying to the poll persons other than those mentioned in sub-section (1) of this section, may, in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations made by the Secretary of State, register that vehicle with the returning officer of the constituency in which he desires to use the vehicle, and any vehicles so registered shall be allotted by the returning officer for use in such manner as he, after consultation with the election agents of all the candidates, thinks desirable, having regard to the needs of the several parts of the constituency, with a view to facilitating the

conveyance of voters irrespective of party to their polling stations, and any vehicles so allotted may, notwithstanding anything contained in this section, be used for the purposes to which they are allotted.

(3) If any person uses any vehicle, or permits any vehicle to be used in contravention of the provisions of this section, he shall be guilty of an illegal hiring within the meaning of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883 :

Provided that the court before which a person being a candidate or an election agent of a candidate, is convicted under this section may, if they think it just in the special circumstances of the case, mitigate or entirely remit any incapacity imposed by section ten of the said Act.

(4) The vehicles to which this section applies are vehicles intended or adapted for use on roads, other than such vehicles as by virtue of subsection (1) of section fourteen of the Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, may not be used for the conveyance of voters to or from the poll.

7. The Fourth Schedule to the principal Act as amended by the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act, 1928 (which relates to the maximum scale of election expenses) shall have effect as if for the words "sixpence" and "fivepence" there were substituted respectively the words "fivepence" and "fourpence."

8.—(1) In subsection (1) of section twenty-two of the principal Act, the words "for more than one constituency" shall be substituted for the words "for more constituencies than he is entitled to vote for in accordance with this Act."

(2) In subsection (2) of section twenty-seven of the principal Act the words "according to the principle of the alternative vote" shall be substituted for the words "under the system of the transferable vote."

(3) For the questions set out in Part II of the Second Schedule to the principal Act there shall be substituted the question "Have you already voted at this general election?"

9.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Representation of the People Act, 1931, and shall be included among the Acts which may be cited together as the Representation of the People Acts.

(2) This Act, except as otherwise expressly provided, shall not extend to Northern Ireland.

(3) The enactments set out in the Third Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule, in the case of the enactment set out in the First Part of the said Schedule as from the passing of this Act, and in the case of the enactments set out in the Second Part of the said Schedule as from the date of the next dissolution of Parliament.

SCHEDULES.

FIRST SCHEDULE.—ALTERNATIVE VOTE RULES.

1. A voter at any election conducted in accordance with these rules—

(a) may indicate the candidate who is his first choice by placing the figure 1 or the mark "X" on his ballot paper opposite the name of that candidate, and any ballot paper so marked shall be counted as a first preference vote given to that candidate ;

(b) he may also place the figure 2 opposite the name of the candidate whom he would prefer if the candidate, who is his first choice, cannot be elected.

2.—(1) If on the counting of the votes a candidate receives an absolute majority of first preference votes, that candidate shall be declared elected.

(2) If no candidate has received an absolute majority of first preference votes, the candidate who has received the smallest number of first preference votes shall be excluded, and each ballot paper counted to him which indicates a second choice for one of the other candidates

shall be transferred to, and counted as a vote given to, that other candidate, and the candidate who receives an absolute majority of the votes reckoned at that count shall be declared elected.

(3) If still no candidate has received an absolute majority of the votes, the process of excluding the candidate who has received the smallest number of votes and of transferring to unexcluded candidates such of the ballot papers counted to the last excluded candidate as indicate second choices for some one or other of the unexcluded candidates shall be continued by means of succeeding counts until one candidate receives an absolute majority of the votes reckoned at the count.

(4) The candidate who receives an absolute majority of the votes reckoned at any count shall be declared elected.

(5) If at any time two or more candidates, one of whom ought to be excluded, have an equal number of votes, that candidate shall be excluded the greater number of whose votes are transferred votes, but if there is no difference in this respect between the candidates, the returning officer shall determine which of them shall be excluded.

SECOND SCHEDULE.

DOUBLE-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES WHICH ARE TO BE DIVIDED.

The following Parliamentary Boroughs:—Blackburn, Bolton, Brighton, Derby, Norwich, Oldham, Preston, Southampton, Stockport, Sunderland, Dundee.

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THIRD SCHEDULE.

ENACTMENTS REPEALED.

PART I.

ENACTMENTS REPEALED AS FROM THE PASSING OF THE ACT.

Session and Chapter.	Short Title.	Extent of Repeal.
7 & 8 Geo. 5. c. 64.	Representation of the People Act, 1918.	In subsection (1) of section eight from the words "but a person" to the end of the subsection.

PART II.

ENACTMENTS REPEALED AS FROM THE NEXT DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT.

Session and Chapter.	Short Title.	Extent of Repeal.
31 & 32 Vict. c. 48.	Representation of the People (Scotland) Act, 1868.	Section twenty-seven.
54 & 55 Vict. c. 49.	Returning Officers (Scotland) Act, 1891.	In section two from the words "but shall" to the end of the section.
7 & 8 Geo. 5. c. 64.	Representation of the People Act, 1918.	In subsection (1) of section one the words "other than a university constituency"; Sections two, nineteen, and twenty; paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section twenty-one; in section twenty-three the words "(other than a university election)"; in section twenty-four the words "(other than a university constituency)"; in sections twenty-five, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, and thirty, the words "(other than a university election)"; subsection (5) of section thirty-one; in section thirty-two the words "(other than a university constituency)"; section thirty-six; subsection (3) of section thirty-seven; in section forty-one in the definition of constituency the words "or university "or combination of universities," and the definitions of "university constituency" and "transferable vote"; in section forty-three in paragraph (1) the definition of "governing body," in paragraph (13) the words "(other than a university election)", paragraph (15), and in paragraph (16) the words "(other than an "election for a university constituency)"; in Part II of the Second Schedule the words from "Declarations" to the end of the Schedule; the Fifth Schedule; and Part III of the Ninth Schedule.

LABOUR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Long Live the Labour
LIMBS !

Young Labour Limbs - - See opposite page

League of Youth

Monthly Bulletin

EDITOR :

W. ARTHUR PEACOCK.

No. 8 (NEW SERIES)

FEBRUARY, 1931

YOUNG SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

BY the time this Bulletin is in the hands of the branches a circular will have reached Secretaries regarding League affiliation to the Young Socialist International. This is of considerable importance and officials are urged to bring it before their branches with the minimum of delay and to communicate their decision to Headquarters as soon as possible.

As is well known for some time past there has been a strong opinion in League circles in favour of affiliation to the International. A resolution in favour of this was passed at the London Conference in 1930, subsequently the matter was considered both by the National Advisory Committee and by the National Executive of the Labour Party. The result of these considerations is that the National Executive has submitted the following proposal, which the Advisory Committee of the League of Youth heartily endorses, and recommends to the branches for acceptance.

An Affiliation Fee.

"That the National Executive Committee shall, on behalf of the League of Youth, affiliate to the Socialist Youth International on the understanding that the membership of the League of Youth should contribute the sum of 2d. per member per annum, which will be retained in a separate Head Office fund.

Remittances from this fund will be forwarded as affiliation fees to the Socialist Youth International, costs incidental to the issue of special International membership card for members of the League of Youth, and so far as the sum would allow, other expenditure involved approved by the League of Youth Advisory Committee."

We feel confident that this proposal will meet with the approval of the League membership. Affiliation to the International will mean that our League of Youth will be brought into closer contact with the young people of other countries and that closer friendships

will be established. In this International there are already young people who are members of the Labour Movement in Belgium, Germany, Austria, Czecho-Slovakia, Esthonia, Holland and elsewhere. They are looking to us to join them and are keen that we should play our part in the great work of promoting international understanding. The proposal contained in this circular enables this to be possible. Twopence per annum from each member of the League will secure affiliation and give us a representative upon the International Committee. Ask your branch to consider this proposal **NOW**. See that the H.O. Circular is answered. The Young People of other lands are waiting for us to link with them in the Young Socialist International. Let us join with them so that we may play our part in breaking down the barriers between nations which make for war and for conflict.

The League Rules

The recent conference discussion on questions relating to the Constitution of the League of Youth revealed that not a little misunderstanding exists in some areas not only as to the rules and constitution of the League, but also as to the place of the League in the machinery of the Labour Party organisation.

Because of this we print this month the rules and constitution of the League and at the same time would call members' attention to points of importance that need to be observed.

The first point that must be realised is that the League of Youth is not a separate organisation from the Labour Party, but an integral section of its organisation. All members of the League of Youth over sixteen years of age are members of the Labour Party and all members of the Labour Party between the ages of sixteen and twenty-

five may be organised into a branch of the League.

The subscriptions of members between the ages of sixteen and twenty-five should be paid to the local Labour Party, with whom an arrangement should be entered into for the return of a portion of the subscriptions for purposes of fostering the League activities and maintaining its organisation.

Because the League of Youth is an integral section of the Labour Party organisation it does not deal with questions of Party policy. The Annual Conference of the Party alone deals with these. The League of Youth activities should be mainly recreational and educational. In this connection three main lines are suggested :—

RULES AND CONSTITUTION FOR THE LABOUR PARTY LEAGUE OF YOUTH.

Name.

1. The Branch shall be known as the.....Branch of the Labour Party League of Youth, and shall be attached to the.....Labour Party.

Objects.

2. To promote the policy and programme of the National Labour Party.

To give opportunity for sport, music, dramatic societies, and social intercourse.

To provide study circles, classes, debates, to give an understanding of the conduct of public work in association with the Labour Party.

To assist the Labour Party in elections to secure control of Parliamentary and Local Government Authorities.

Generally to promote opportunities for the development of character, capacity and knowledge of its members.

Membership.

3. Membership of this Branch shall be open to young persons between the ages of 14 and 16 years, and members of the Labour Party who are between 16 and 25 years of age, who have expressed their desire to be members of this Branch. Members must be willing to work for the objects and conform to the Constitution and Standing Orders of the Labour Party, and if eligible for trade union membership, should be members of the trade unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress or recognised by the General Council of

Recreational : opportunity should be found for sports, music, dramatic societies and social intercourses.

Educational : all developments should be encouraged in the way of study circles, classes, debates, an understanding of the conduct of public work, and all of these should be conducted in association with the constituency or local Labour Party.

Participation in election work. Every encouragement should be given for this and full advantage taken of the younger people's energy and desire to serve.

It is hoped that League officials will bear these points in mind and will at the same time take steps to ensure that the rules are closely adhered to.

the Trades Union Congress as *bona fide* trade unions.

Conditions of Membership.

4. Every member must :—
 1. Accept and conform to the constitution, principles, programme and policy of the Labour Party and the rules of this Branch, and
 2. Either reside in the Division or be registered therein as a Parliamentary or Local Government elector.

Contributions.

5. Subscriptions payable by members shall be as follow :—
 - (a) Members between the age of 14 and 16 years shall pay a minimum contribution of 6d. per annum.
 - (b) Members between the age of 16 and 25 years, who are members of the.....Labour Party, shall pay their subscriptions to that Party. An arrangement should be made between this Branch and the Party for a portion of the subscriptions of such members to be paid to this Branch for the purpose of maintaining its organisation.

Management.

6. (a) The Management of this Branch shall be in the hands of an Executive Committee elected at the Annual Meeting of members. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers, seven members or such number as may be agreed upon by the Branch, and the secretaries of sub-committees. In addition two representatives of the..... Party

shall have seats on the Executive Committee as fraternal members.

(b) The officers shall be the president, two vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer.

(c) Sub-Committees may be appointed for sport, socials, education, etc., at a general meeting of members, but their activities must be reported to the Executive Committee, whose duty it shall be to secure co-ordination throughout the work of the Branch.

(d) Two representatives of the Executive Committee of this Branch shall be appointed as fraternal delegates to the General Committee of the..... Party.

(e) The duties of the officers shall be as follow :—

The President shall preside at all general and Executive meetings, and sign all minutes after confirmation. In his or her absence, the chair shall be taken by one of the vice-presidents in order of seniority.

The Secretary shall be present at and record minutes of all general and executive meetings. He or she shall conduct correspondence and prepare an annual report. The Secretary shall keep a record of members, receive contributions, and pay them over to the Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall keep an account of all money paid out and received and shall prepare an annual balance sheet. All money shall be deposited in a bank. All cheques are to be signed by the President and Treasurer.

(f) Two auditors shall be appointed at the annual meeting of members. Officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be ineligible.

Meetings.

7. The annual meeting of members, of which 28 days' notice shall be given, shall be held in the month of February. Ordinary business meetings of members shall be held monthly. Special business meetings of members may be called at the discretion of the Executive Committee. All other meetings shall be held as arranged from time to time.

Miscellaneous.

8. The general provision of the National Labour Party as stated in the Constitution and Standing Orders, and the rules of the.....Party, shall apply to this Branch.

STANDING ORDERS.

1. A monthly meeting of the members of the Branch shall be held onin each month at.....p.m.

2. The order of business shall be as follows :—

(a) Minutes of previous meeting and business arising therefrom.

(b) Correspondence and business arising therefrom.

(c) Applications for membership.

(d) Reports (Finance, Sub-Committees, Deputations, etc.).

(e) Resolutions of which notice has been given.

(f) Other business.

3. No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless it appears on the agenda, without the suspension of Standing Orders carried by a majority of members present at the meeting.

4. No resolution shall be discussed at a meeting until it has been moved and seconded.

5. A member shall not speak more than once to each resolution or amendment. The mover of a resolution may, without introducing new matter, reply in closing a discussion.

6. A second amendment to a resolution cannot be moved until the first amendment has been disposed of. If the first amendment is carried it becomes a substantive resolution, whereupon an amendment may be proposed to it. If the first amendment is not carried, a second amendment may be proposed to the original resolution.

7. To close a discussion a member may move "that the question be now put," and if seconded, it shall be voted upon forthwith.

8. To close a discussion and to prevent a decision upon a resolution or amendment, a member may move "that next business be taken" and if seconded, it shall be voted upon forthwith. If the resolution is carried the matter under discussion lays on the table.

9. No resolution to rescind a minute may be moved unless notice of motion has been given at a previous meeting.

10. The Chairman may give a casting vote in the event of there being an equality of votes on any matter.

11. A resolution of which notice has been given shall not be proceeded with in the absence of the member responsible unless he or she has authorised, in writing, another member to move it; or unless in the opinion of the meeting the resolution is deemed important.

12. Voting shall be by show of hands unless the meeting deems a ballot vote essential.

13. No Sub-Committee shall commit the Branch to any expenditure without

having received the authority of the Branch or its Executive.

14. Any breach of the Rules and Standing Orders may be raised by a member rising to a "point of order." The Chairman's ruling shall be final unless challenged, whereupon the Chairman shall put his ruling to the meeting forthwith.

Leeds is Leading

AN encouraging report of an Advisory Committee's first year's work is presented by the Leeds Labour Party Youth Advisory Committee. This body had its first meeting in November, 1929, when only three Leagues of Youth were organised in its area. As the result of the year's work that number has increased to seven with an approximate membership of 150.

The various activities in which these Leagues engage show that the objects of the League are being borne in mind by the members and that much good work is being done to train efficient and intelligent workers for Labour's ranks.

Quarterly conferences have been held to discuss problems of organisation, a day school was another successful venture which attracted eighty-three delegates. Lectures were given upon "Speaking" and "Youth and Political Principles." During September last a special Youth Week was held and members canvassed for new members, held outdoor and indoor meetings and a poster parade. Rambles, too, have been organised, a speaker's list drawn up, and consideration given to the possibilities of a summer camp, co-operation with the Youth Hostels Association, and help to the Textile Distress Fund. In addition to this useful work has been done in connection with Leeds own Labour paper "Leeds Weekly Citizen" and "The Daily Herald."

The report concludes with the comment that while members feel something has been accomplished, like Oliver Twist they are not satisfied. They intend that even more shall be done in the coming year.

This encouraging report shows what useful work advisory committees can do. At the present moment there are thirteen of such bodies in existence and it is the intention of the Advisory Committee to encourage their formation during the next year. Already a

draft of a constitution for such bodies is before a sub-committee of the Advisory Committee and a memorandum upon the subject will be published in the next issue of the Bulletin. In this connection the Chairman of the Surrey Federation of the League reports that in that county the Federation has appointed a Liaison Officer whose task it is to enquire into the activities of the League, to arrange inter-visits of branches and to assist in propaganda efforts and similar endeavours. This Federation is responsible for a Reunion Dance to be held on Feb. 28th at St. Barnabas Hall, Hook Road, Epsom, Surrey. Tickets are 1s. each, and may be had from any Federation official or at the hall door. A hearty invitation is extended to all League members who are able to get to Epsom for this function.

We regret that pressure upon space necessitates holding over a number of reports.

ERRATA.

The attention of Secretaries is directed to the following corrections that should be made to the report of the Annual Conference which has been lately circulated by the Advisory Committee.

Page 5. Par 2. League of Youth Delegates. Line 13 should read "Annual Party Conference to amend the Party Constitution so as to render ineligible as delegate members of the Party or its section below the age of 18 years."

Page 8. Alteration of Rules. Line 7 should read, "And also provides that within six months after their reaching the age of 18 they would have to become members of the Labour Party or cease to be members of the League of Youth."

NOTICE.

"The League of Youth Monthly Bulletin" is issued by the Press and Publicity Department of the Labour Party. By arrangement with the "Labour Organiser" it is first published in the pages of that journal, from which it is reprinted for wider circulation.